

Huntingdonshire County Council

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Annual Report

OF THE


SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1917.

HUNTINGDON:

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**To the Chairman and Members of the Huntingdonshire
Education Committee.**

MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the seventh Annual Report on the Medical Inspection in the Schools of the Administrative County of Huntingdon.

Capt. Moss-Blundell being still absent on Military service, the inspections were carried out on the lines instituted in 1916 and approved by the Board of Education. .

This arrangement appears to work well and few children with even very slight defects can have been overlooked.

A considerable number of "Entrants" were examined at the request of the parents.

Those "Leavers" who were granted exemptions for Agricultural purposes were warned that unless they presented themselves for examination when desired, they would be liable to have their exemptions withdrawn.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

JENNETTE C. HARGRAVE,

ACTING SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

March, 1918.

Members of the Medical Inspection Sub-Committee.

C. G. TEBBUTT, Chairman.

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R. C. GREY, G. FYDELL ROWLEY,
R. M. OSBORNE.

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 MISS NEWMAN.

Clerk of the Committee : S. G. COOK, M.A., B.Sc.

County Surveyor : HERBERT LEETE.

County School Medical Officer : C. B. MOSS-BLUNDELL, M.D.
D.P.H., 36, High Street, Huntingdon.

Telephone :—Huntingdon 11.

Acting School Medical Officer : DR. J. C. HARGRAVE.

REPORT.

Ninety-one Schools comprising 110 departments are under your care, and in 1917 the average number of scholars on the register was 8773, with an average attendance of 7509.

Alterations and Improvements to School Buildings.

I am indebted to the reports of the County Surveyor for the following information ;—

FLETON—Wall rebuilt.

HUNTINGDON COUNCIL.—Repairs to pump, screen and lavatories, new pipes, drains cleaned, tarring of playground.

HARTFORD.—New fence.

RAMSEY HEIGHTS.—General repairs to School Offices and School House, stove and boundary fencing repaired.

RAMSEY ST. MARY'S.—Interior renovations.

SPALDWICK.—Cleaning and repairs.

Also minor repairs to the following schools—

Ramsey 40ft., Farcet Council, Hartford, St. Neots Council, Warboys Fen, St. Ives Girls, Offord, Hemingford Grey, Gt. Staughton and Somersham.

Arrangements adopted for Organization and Supervision.

Only the "Leaver" group in Code A were selected for routine examination, but all children irrespective of age, who, in the opinion of the teachers or other responsible persons, suffered from any defect, were given a special examination.

The Re-inspections took place as on former occasions.

The usual number of routine visits was made to each school, for the purpose of Medical Inspection and there was no change in the work carried out by the school nurses except that Nurse Darnborough left Ramsey to take up a post in a Red Cross Hospital towards the end of 1917, and up to the present, no one has been appointed in her place.

In Huntingdon, Nurse Finley succeeded Nurse Marsland.

In the Urban Districts the school Nurses were present at the examinations and occasionally, at the written request of the school Medical Officer, visited the schools and reported on any children requiring attention and then "followed" them up ; also on various occasions they visited special cases at home and reported upon the conditions there.

At present no provision is made for a school nurse in any of the rural districts, but, in view of the fact that certain rural districts are forming Nursing Associations, I hope you will avail yourselves of the opportunity to utilise the services of the Nurses appointed.

Work of the District Nurses in "following up" Defective Children.

School Visits.	Home Visits.		
No. of Visits.	No. of Visits.	Kind of Cases Visited.	
		No. of Verminous Cases.	No. of Other Cases.
48	404	187	104

The work has been greatly forwarded by the loyal co-operation of the teachers and school attendance officers.

The methods adopted for securing the presence of parents at the inspections have been previously described.

In 1917 there was a considerable falling off in the attendance of parents at the inspections of the "Leaver" group, but not of the "Special" group.

This is easily accounted for, by the fact that many mothers were engaged in Agriculture or Munition work.

The following table compares the years 1916-1917.

Parents present.

	1916.		1917.	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Leavers	... 29 %	40 %	20 %	33 %
Specials	... 24 %	26 %	24 %	30.5 %

Letters are constantly received from parents who are unable to be present, showing the keen interest which they take in the health of the children.

General Statement of the extent and scope of the Medical Inspection carried out during the year.

169 routine visits were paid to 110 Departments and 1373 children were examined, of this number 898 were "Leavers" and 475 were "Specials."

In addition 327 children who were found defective on former examinations were re-examined, also a number of children were examined for head conditions.

By the School Medical Officer..... 2968

By the School Nurses 2889

32 Special visits were paid for some particular purpose such as when epidemic diseases were notified on the Weekly Returns, or as "Surprise" visits.

All boys and girls who had attained their 11th and 12th birthdays respectively were examined as "Leavers."

Number of children examined.

A. "Code" Group.

Age	11	Leavers.				Total.
		12	13	14	Other Ages.	
Boys	363	38	5	1	6	413
Girls	17	416	49	1	2	485
Totals	380	454	54	2	8	898

B. Groups other than "Code."

		Special Cases.	Re-examination.
Boys	...	253	} 327
Girls	...	222	
Totals	...	475	

Summary.

Routine Examination	...	...	...	...	...	898
Special	...	...	...	...	...	475
Re-examination	...	...	...	...	...	327
Total						<u>1700</u>
No. examined for Head conditions by S.M.O.						2968
By Nurses						2889

Table IV—Treatment of Defects of Children
during 1917.

Condition.	No. of defects for which treatment was considered necess'ry	No. of defects for which no report is available	No. of defects treated	Results of treatment			No. of defects not treated.	Percentage of defects treated.
				Remedied	Improved	Unchanged		
Clothing	17	...	15	1	11	3	2	80
Footgear	16	...	13	2	8	3	3	81
Cleanliness of Head	267	29	238	31	149	58	...	89
Cleanliness of Body	14	...	12	1	8	3	2	85
Nutrition	11	...	11	2	6	3	...	100
Nose and throat	101	10	51	21	21	9	40	50.5
External eye disease	14	2	10	4	3	3	2	71.4
Ear disease	6	1	5	3	1	1	...	83
Teeth	27	3	9	9	...	...	15	33
Heart and Circulation	8	2	6	1	3	2	...	75
Lungs	7	...	7	...	7	...	...	100
Nervous System	2	...	2	...	1	1	...	100
Skin	118	18	100	54	29	17	...	84.6
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deformities	3	...	2	1	1	...	1	66
Tuberculosis—non-pulmonary	4	...	4	...	4	...	...	100
Speech	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	100
Mental Condition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vision and Squint	69	8	33	14	10	9	28	47
Hearing	23	...	11	...	7	4	12	47
Miscellaneous...	28	...	25	9	9	7	3	90
Total	736	73	555	151	278	91	108	75

Time Occupied.

It is impossible to estimate accurately the time occupied for inspection much depended upon the assistance given by the teachers, and whether the parent was present or not. On a general average I should estimate that 10 to 12 seniors or intermediates and 14 to 15 infants per hour is a fair average. This does not include writing cards or making out forms.

Table II. Returns of Defects found in the Course of Medical Inspection in 1917.

Defect or Disease.					Code Groups.		Specials.	
					Numbers referred for Treatment	Numbers requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for Treatment.	Numbers requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for treatment.
(1)					(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Skin	Malnutrition	...	...	...	2	36	9	...
	Uncleanliness :							
	Head	...	...	...	57	7	210	179
	Body	...	...	...	...	7	14	6
	Ringworm :							
	Head	...	...	...	1	...	32	...
	Body	...	...	...	1	1	2	...
	Scabies	...	...	...	2	...	25	...
	Impetigo	...	...	...	1	...	20	...
	Other Diseases	...	...	...	2	6	32	12
	Defective Vision and Squint	...	...	...	28	2	41	26
	External Eye Disease	...	...	...	6	2	8	3
	Defective Hearing	...	...	...	9	4	14	8
	Ear Disease	...	...	...	2	1	4	2
	Enlarged Tonsils	...	...	...	14	1	10	8
Nose & Throat	Adenoids...	...	...	...	21	5	24	18
	Defective Speech	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
Heart and circulation	Heart Disease :							
	Organic	...	...	...	2	1	...	2
	Functional	...	...	...	1	...	5	6
	Anæmia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lungs	Pulmonary Tuberculosis :							
	Definite	...	...	...	...	3	4	2
	Suspected	...	...	...	1	1	2	1
	Chronic Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	...	1
	Other Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nervous System	Epilepsy	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
	Chorea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis :							
	Glands	...	...	...	...	13	2	4
	Bones and Joints	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Other Forms	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Deformities	...	...	...	1	...	2	5
	Other Defects or diseases	...	...	...	7	17	21	7
	Dental Disease	...	...	...	23	10	4	8

General review of the facts disclosed by Medical Inspection.

NUTRITION.—In estimating nutrition attention is directed towards the firmness of the tissues and the general aspect of the child as well as towards the ratio of height to weight.

In about 5% nutrition was impaired and 10 cases of general neglect were reported to the N.S.P.C.C. In 5% the nutrition was much above the average. The reason for this may be that many of the children were employed on agricultural work and earned considerable wages, as much as 7/- per day during the potato picking season and as a consequence the food of the family was on a scale commensurate with the increase of income.

As a general rule, both boys and girls who were exempted for farm work were greatly improved in physique.

The majority of those with impaired nutrition showed signs of a tendency towards tuberculosis.

CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR.—The figures under these headings are taken from the report of the Head Teachers. It appears that among the boys 4·3% of the “Leavers” and 3% of the “Specials” were insufficiently clad.

As to the girls, the clothing of 2·5% “Leavers” and 3% “Specials” was insufficient.

Over 11% of the boys clothing and over 6% of that of the girls was dirty and out of repair.

This is an increase on the figures for 1916.

The footgear was defective in 13·5% of Code A boys and in 8·2% of Code A girls, also in 5% of the “Special” boys and 4% of the “Special” girls.

The scarcity of cobblers and high cost of leather no doubt was responsible for this.

VISION AND SQUINT.—8·6 % of the “Special” group and 3 % of the Code group required treatment. Nearly 3 % of the latter had had their vision corrected previous to examination.

TEETH.—62 of the Code group had more than 4 teeth decayed; and 2·2 % of the “Specials” required dental treatment.

TUBERCULOSIS.—8 children were notified by the School Medical Officer, four being non-pulmonary cases. 11 children were sent to Bramblewood Sanatorium, Holt, for periods varying from 3 to 6 months.

16 children previously notified were re-examined 8 children in Code A and 12 “Specials” were classed as “pretuberculous.”

CLEANLINESS.—The improvement in personal cleanliness of both boys and girls noted in the report for 1916, was maintained in 1917.

The children of seven schools were found to be quite clean; and the percentage of children with verminous heads who required a card was only 8·6 % as compared with 18 % in 1914.

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.—Surgical treatment was recommended only in well marked cases. 3 % of the Code and 7·7 % of the “Special” group required some treatment.

SKIN DISEASE.—A wide-spread epidemic of scabies and Impetigo caused a serious diminution in the attendance.

Great difficulty was experienced in curing these diseases quickly. Either the parents did not take sufficient trouble to carry out the necessary treatment or else the children were frequently re-infected.

Enlarged Thyroid prevailed in 2·5 % of the girls but only one case was detected amongst the boys.

MENTAL CONDITION.—According to the Teacher's reports 53 children showed marked mental retardation ;

20	of these were retarded	2 years.
18	„ „ „	3 years.
2	„ „ „	4 years.

5 of the Code group were classed as Mentally deficient and 8 of the Special group were similarly classed.

1 boy had to be excluded from School for this reason.

School Closures 1917.

The following table shows the number of closures for infectious diseases.

Mumps ...	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	5
German Measles	...	...	...	...	4
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					13

Exclusion of Individual Scholars.

The following children were excluded by the S.M.O. upon the grounds indicated :—

Verminous Heads	...	...	...	...	41
Ringworm	...	...	...	...	21
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	6
Scabies ...	...	...	...	...	28
Herpes ...	...	...	...	...	2
Debility	...	...	...	...	6
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	3
Mental Deficiency	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					108

Prosecutions.

There were 8 prosecutions for non-attendance and uncleanliness under the Attendance Bye-Laws and in 7 cases a fine was imposed.

The following is a list of Deaf and Dumb children in special Schools.

			Cost p.a.		Parents' Contributions
1.	Girl	...	£33	...	1/6 per wk.
2	Boy	...	£33	...	1/- per wk
3.	Boy	...	£33	...	1/6 per wk.
4.	Boy	...	£33	...	1/- per wk.

And travelling expenses.

In an Industrial School.

Three boys at 3/- per week.

One girl at 2/- per week.

One girl at 5/- per week.

Twenty-four Pupil Teachers, etc., were medically examined.

Table V. Inspection, Treatment, etc., of Children during 1917

(1) The total number of children medically inspected (whether Code Group, Special or ailing child).	Code ... 898 Special ... 475 <hr/> 1373
(2) The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective Clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment).	230
(3) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective Clothing, etc).	Code ... 125 Special ... 265 <hr/> 390
(4) The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc).	Code ... 57 Special ... 177 <hr/> 234
Re-inspections, ditto	43 <hr/> 277

